

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 554

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 2897

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT

REF: STATE 067973

1. I BELIEVE THE PRESENTATION OF THE POINTS SPELLED OUT IN THE REFTEL WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE IF THEY FORMED A PART OF THE OPENING OF MY NEGOTIATIONS WITH BHUTTO ON THE REPROCESSING ISSUE. THE TALKING POINTS WOULD UNDERSCORE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION PROBLEM AND WOULD REINFORCE THE POINT THAT PAKISTAN IS NOT BEING SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL DISCRIMINATION. ALSO, BHUTTO MAY BE FLATTERED AT THE RIGHT TIME BY THE THOUGHT THAT HE IS ONE OF JUST A FEW WORLD LEADERS BEING ASKED FOR ADVICE IN THE FORMATION OF US AND INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR POLICY.

2. THE CONSIDERATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT AND ITS INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS COULD ALSO APPROPRIATELY SET THE STAGE FOR DISCUSSION OF WHAT I ANTICIPATE MAY BE ONE IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE NEGOTIATING PACKAGE, SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN'S CIVILIAN NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM POSSIBLY INCLUDING US OR INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES OF ACCESS BY PAKISTAN TO NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLIES. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WOULD PLAN ALSO TO

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STRESS OUR PLANS TO INCREASE US NUCLEAR FUEL PRODUCTION CAPACITY. I WOULD ALSO EMPHASIZE OUR DECISION TO FORESWEAR FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD THE COMMERCIAL REPROCESSING AND RECYCLING OF PLUTONIUM. THIS STRENGTHENS OUR ARGUMENT AGAINST THE PAK-FRENCH REPROCESSING PLANT. PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT, IT COULD EVENTUALLY BECOME AN ELEMENT IN BHUTTO'S PUBLIC, OR SEMI-PUBLIC, RATIONALE SHOULD HE DECIDE TO GIVE UP

ON THE FRENCH DEAL.

3. I RECOGNIZE THAT IN PRESENTING THE ELEMENTS OF OUR NEW POLICY AND REQUESTING GOP ADVICE SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS, WE RISK THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PAKS' LOSING SIGHT OF THE MORE GENERAL PROBLEM IN THEIR ATTENTION TO THE IMMEDIATE AND SPECIFIC ONE BETWEEN THEM AND US. I THINK I CAN OBVIATE THAT BY LEAVING THE "NON-PAPER" WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHI AS WELL AS WITH BHUTTO IN THE EXPECTATION THAT THIS WILL LEAD THE GOP TO GET TO WORK ON IT IN THE SHORT TIMEFRAME PROVIDED.

4. I ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT GIVEN THIS SHORT TIMEFRAME, IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE THE SIMULTANEOUS APPROACH I'VE OUTLINED ABOVE BECAUSE MY NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS MAY NOT BE READY. IF THAT IS THE CASE, I'D PLAN TO HANDLE THE PRESIDENTIAL NUCLEAR POLICY ISSUE AT THE SHAHI LEVEL. HE WOULD OF COURSE GET IT TO BHUTTO'S ATTENTION PROMPTLY. I BELIEVE THAT FOR ME TO GO TO BHUTTO WITH ONLY THE NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT AT THIS TIME WOULD CONFUSE AND DISAPPOINT HIM. THAT IS OF COURSE ANOTHER REASON I'D LIKE TO DEAL WITH THE TWO ISSUES SIMULTANEOUSLY IF POSSIBLE.
BYROADE

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